

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson Jr. said today that his office has sent no letters on behalf of the Epitome Restaurant, as erroneously stated this morning by Chicago Police Superintendent Terry Hillard. The Chicago Police Department and Supt. Hillard are in the process of correcting this error.

As for the tragic events at the Epitome, Jackson issued the following statement:

"Dwain Kyles is a childhood friend of mine. Today, he's a lawyer and a businessman. I have known him to be a responsible individual and responsible businessman and an upstanding example of a young professional person in our community.

"His father was one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s closest and dearest friends. In fact, Dr. King was en route to Dwain's father's house when he was assassinated on

April 3rd, 1968. Dr. King's last words were reportedly,
'I'm on my way to see Billy (Kyles).'

"The events on Monday were extremely unfortunate and tragic. My heart and deepest profound sympathies are extended to the families of those who have lost love ones.

"But, extending blame and pointing fingers is inappropriate and unnecessary -- before the first funeral has been held and the investigation is complete. Chicago's finest police officers under Supt. Hillard are conducting that investigation. We should allow the authorities to conduct a complete investigation without interference from anyone who is not a party to the investigation."